

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 IO-14 NEA-10

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AEC-11 EB-11 DRC-01 /171 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9405

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS SECRETARY PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF NATO MINISTERIAL

1. WHILE BELGIAN PRESS REPARTED FIRST DAY OF NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH EMPHASIS ON DIVISION, PARTICULARLY COUNCIL CLASH BETWEEN JOBERT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, FINAL REPORTS STRESS HARMONY AND PEACE AMONG ALLIES.

2. DECEMBER 11 HEADLINE IN "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" (CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC) READS, "MR. KISSINGER: SHOULD THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE BE PARTNERS OR RIVALS?", WHILE "LE SOIR" (LARGE CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT) QUOTES THE QUESTION DIFFERENTLY, ALSO OVER THE LEAD STORY: "ARE WE ALLIES OR WILL WE BECOME COMPETITORS?" THESE AND OTHER PAPERS ALSO CONCENTRATED ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT IN THE COUNCIL IN WHICH THE SECRETARY AND JOBERT EXCHANGED HARSH WORDS.

3. DECEMBER 12 HEADLINES IN SAME PAPERS HERALD ALLIED UNITY" "TRANSATLANTIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ERASED" (LIBRE BELGIQUE); "THE FIFTEEN AGREE ON THE FUTURE OF THIER UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONS" (LE SOIR). FONT-PAGE PHOTO OF SECRETARY AND JOBERT

IN "LE PEUPLE" (OFFICIAL SOCIALIST ORGAN) BEARS THE HEADLINE, "NATO: EUROPE AND US RECONCILED", AND A CAPTION STATING THAT "THE ATLANTIC SKIES WILL NO LONGER BE DARKENED". "LAATSTE NIEUWS" (LIBERAL) DEITORIAL SAYS THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE OVER THE OCTOBER MILITARY ALERT OF US FORCES WERE SETTLES IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS AND NOTES THE SECRETARY'S NEW UNDERSTANDING OF EUROPEAN SENSIBILITIES. EDITOR ADDS THAT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN AT COPENHAGEN WHETHER EUROPE WILL STAY WEAK AND DIVIDED.

4. THE EDITOR OF "HET VOLK" (CATHOLIC TRADE UNION) WRITES THAT IF JOBERT ACCEPTS THE IDEA OF A US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AND US FORCES IN EUROPE, THEN HE MUST ALSO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT EUROPEAN UNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY WITH US SUPPORT.

5. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE COMMANDED PRESS ATTENTION, MOST PROMINENTLY IN "LE PEUPLE" FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE ANNOUNCING, "BELGIUM AGREES TO OFFER COMPENSATION FOR THE US PRESENCE IN EUROPE". STORY QUOTES VAN ELSLANDE AS MAKING HIS OFFER IN TERMS OF BILATERAL OFFEST PLUS PARTICIPATION IN COMMONLY FUNDED ACTIVITIES.

6. BLEGIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF MINISTERAIL EVENTS REPORTED IN DETAIL IN USINFO SERIES DECEMBER 11, 12 AND 13. STRAUZS-HUPE

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